

ITEM# UJKA461

A SANDAI KANEWAKA 'TAMESHIGIRI' KATANA SIGNED, SHINTÔ EARLY EDO PERIOD (ENPÔ ERA: 1673~1681)

Swordsmith: *Gashû-jû Kanewaka (Shirô'emon)*
Measurements: **Length:** 60.7cm (*ubu*) **Sori:** 1.2cm **Moto-haba:** 3.04cm **Weight:** 615g
Jihada: *Well-forged itame-hada and masame-hada with chikei*
Hamon: *Splendid gunome midare with wide yaki, with kanitsune, togari and midare-komi*
Certificate: **NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon** (Especially Worthy of Preservation)
Fujishiro rank: **Jô-saku** (ranked as a superior swordsmith)
Included: Shirasaya, fabric bag, stand, kit, printed description

SOLD

This wide and splendidly sharp katana was crafted by *Tsujimura Shirô'emon Kanewaka*, third generation of the *Kanewaka* family. He succeeded as head of the *Kanewaka* family in 1677 until his death in May 1711. An awe-inspiring mountain range comes to mind when admiring the splendid peaks and valleys found in its *gunome-midare hamon*. From every angle, the health and vibrancy of this 2-shaku sword shines through. As such, this sword recently passed NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon with flying colours. Adding to the ferocity of this katana, sword tester *Matsunami Toki'emon* performed a *tameshigiri* cutting test with this blade by severing through a human body at the armpit level and directly into the earthen mound below. One gets the distinct sense that this blade could have easily cut multiple bodies in one stroke. This sword is an excellent candidate for *Tanobe-sensei sayagaki* and also an enjoyable custom koshirae project that Unique Japan will assist the new owner with. Of course, a powerful katana such as this one can also be enjoyed in shirasaya only.



Saki-kasane: 4.7mm

Moto-kasane: 7.1mm

Kissaki: 3.64cm

Saki-haba: 2.07cm

Nagasa: 60.7cm

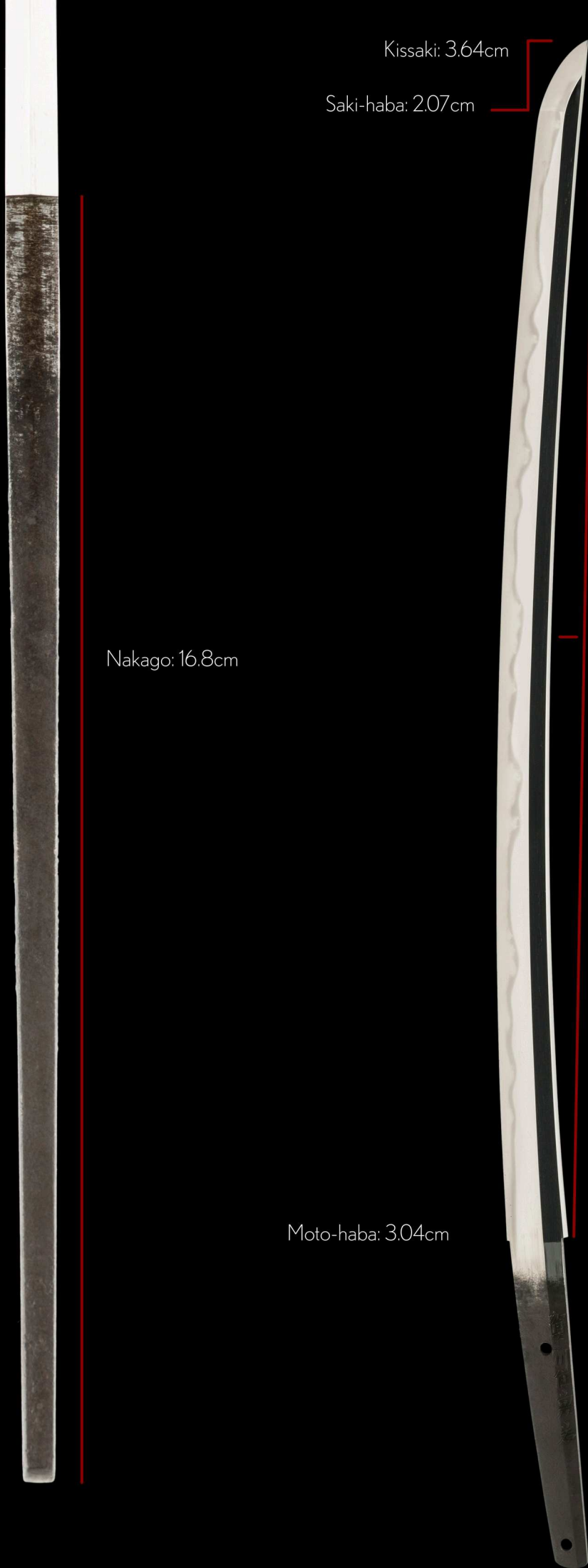
Nakago: 16.8cm

Sori: 1.20cm

Omosa: 615g

Moto-haba: 3.04cm

Mekugi-ana: 2



The *Kanewaka* family held close ties with the *Maeda Daimyô* family in *Kaga* province as the castle town grew to immense prominence and wealth during the Edo period. Traditional Japanese gold leaf production was made famous in *Kaga* among numerous high-quality crafts.

Top samurai held great admiration for swords from the *Kanewaka* family. First generation *Kanewaka* was so highly esteemed that he was referred to as *Kaga Masamune* - in tribute to one of Japan's most celebrated swordsmiths.

This wide and splendidly sharp katana was crafted by third generation *Kanewaka* who was born *Tsujimura Shirô'emon*. He was the eldest son of the second generation *Kanewaka* and after the death of his father in 1677, he succeeded as head of the *Kanewaka* family until his death in May 1711. *Shirô'emon* is rightfully rated *jô-saku* (a superior swordsmith).

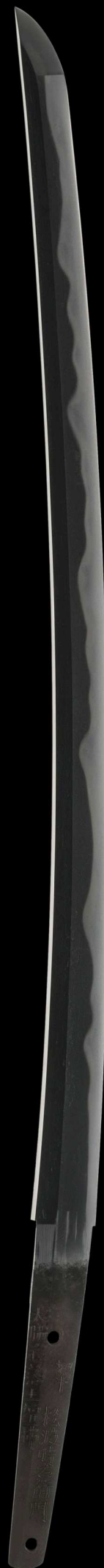
An awe-inspiring mountain range comes to mind when admiring the splendid peaks and valleys found in its *gunome-midare hamon*. From every angle, the health and vibrancy of this *2-shaku* sword shines through. As such, this sword recently passed *NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon* with flying colours.

Adding to the ferocity of this katana, sword tester *Matsunami Toki'emon* performed a *tameshigiri* cutting test with this blade by severing through a human body at the armpit level and directly into the earthen mound below. One gets the distinct sense that this blade could have easily cut multiple bodies in one stroke.

This sword is a good candidate for *Tanobe-sensei sayagaki* and also an enjoyable custom *koshirae* project - Unique Japan will gladly assist the next owner build something special. Of course, a powerful katana such as this one can also be enjoyed in *shirasaya* only.



tameshigiri (one-body cutting test)





Location: *Kaga province*

Secular name: *Shirôemon*

Swordsmith: *Kanewaka* (third generation)

ubu-nakago (original, unaltered tang)

sujikai-yasurime (diagonal file marks)

賀 (Ga)

州 (shû)

住 (jû)

兼 (Kane)

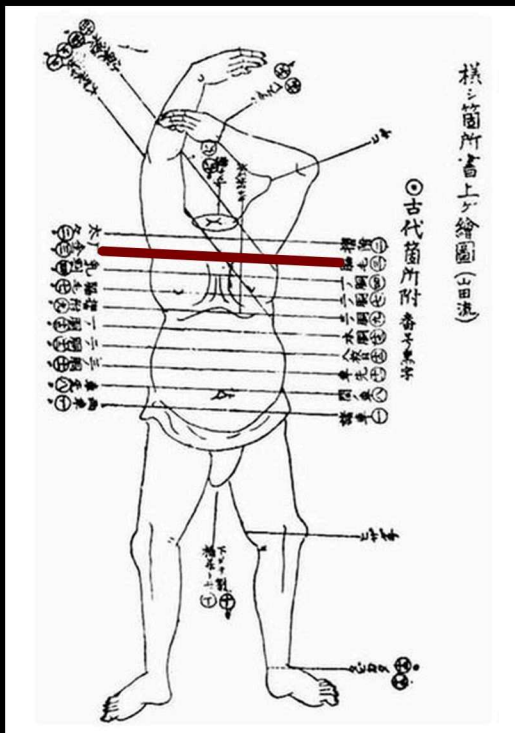
若 (waka)

Hikae-mekugi-ana

An extra peg hole was made for reinforcement during the cutting test.

*Kirite Matsunami Toki'emon ô-wakige otoshi
dodan barai*

This katana tested by *Matsunami Toki'emon* by severing through a body at the armpit level and directly into the earthen mound below.



ô-wakige cutting test illustrated

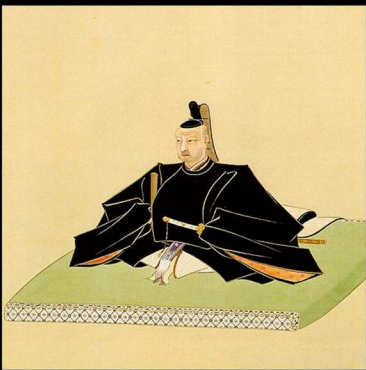
(Ô) 大		
(waki) 脇		
(ge) 毛		
(otoshi) 落	切手	切 (Kiri) 手 (te)
(do) 土		
(dan) 壇		松 (Matsu)
(barai) 拂		波 (nami)
		時 (Toki)
		右 (')
		衛 (e)
		門 (mon)



Sword tester, *Matsunami Toki'emon*, whose secular name was *Yoshitake* (義賢), was a descendant of *Hitachi no Suke Yoshichika* (常陸介義親), the Lord of *Matsunami* Castle.

He appears to have worked primarily during the *Enpô* era (1673~1681).

In the first year of *Jôkyô* era (1684), he began to serve *Maeda Tsunanori* (前田綱紀), the fourth Lord of the *Kaga* domain, working as an inspector within the domain.



Maeda Tsunanori
Head of the *Kaga* domain
In office (1645~1723)

特 命
30201505

No 3018593



鑑定書
賀州住兼若（四郎右衛門）
切手松波時右衛門
大脇毛落土壇拂
長二尺強
右は當協會に於て審査の結果保存刀剣と
鑑定しこれを証する
平成三十年八月二十日
公益財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會

石川県 教育委員会
第 15250 号
昭和44年 9月 20日

*This katana has recently attained Tokubetsu Hozon level certification.
The new NBTHK certificate will be issued in a couple months.

NBTHK Hozon
Certificate of Designation

A sword designated as *Worthy of Conservation*
by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword

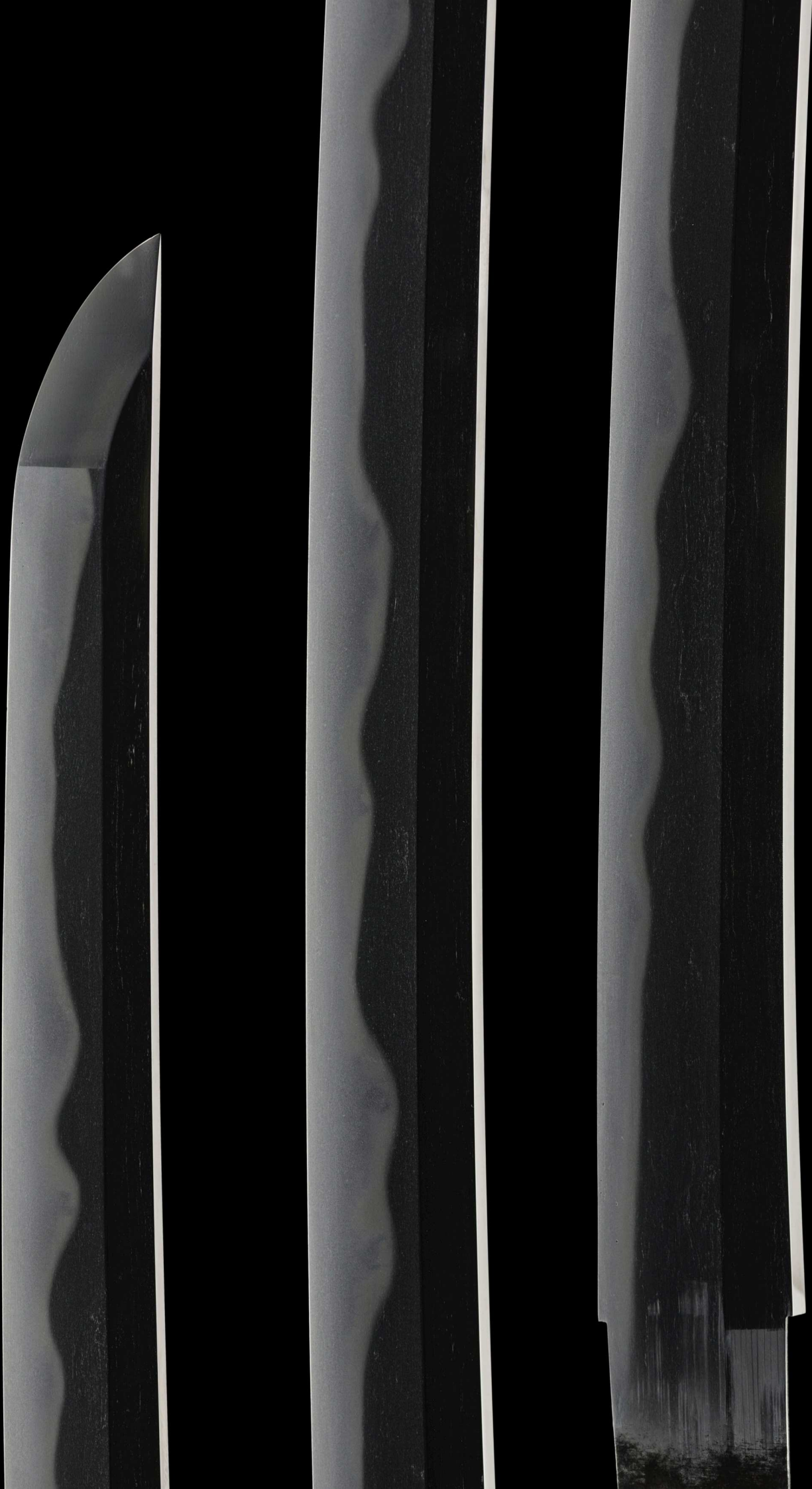
Issued in the 30th year of Heisei (2018), August 20th

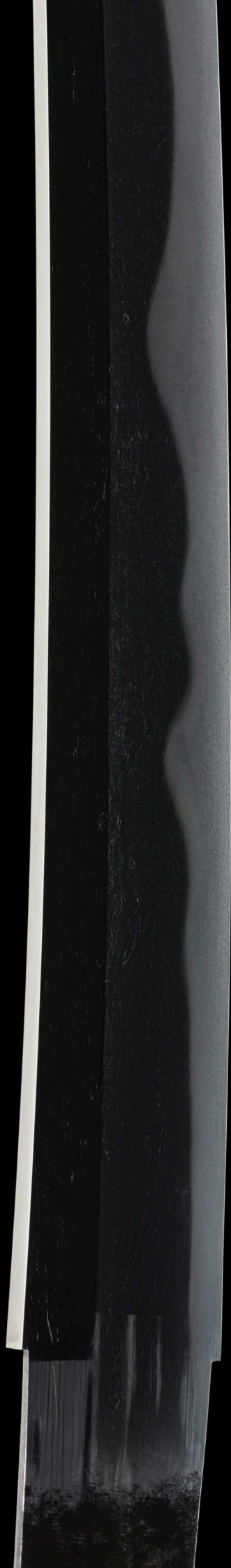
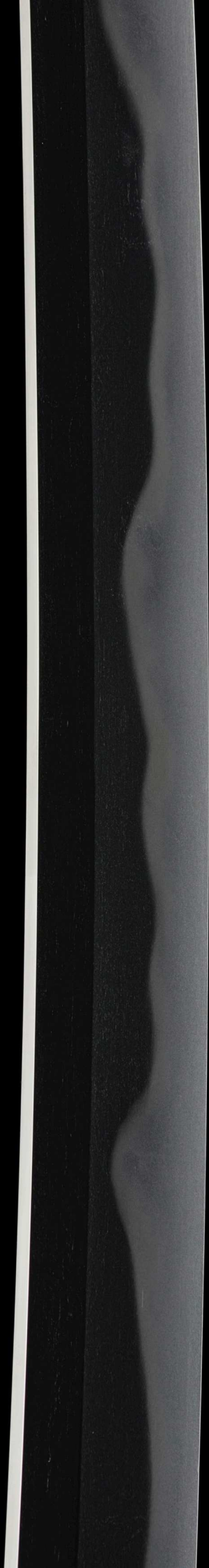
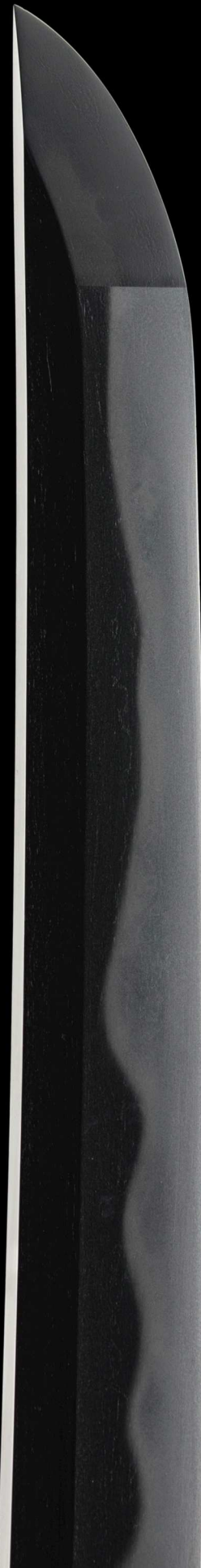
One, Katana

Mei (signature)
Gashû-jû Kanewaka (Shirôemon)
Kirite Matsunami Tokiemon
Ô-wakige otoshi dodan barai

Nagasa (length)
2-shaku kyô (60.7cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)








A lovely *midare-komi boshi* with modest *kaeri* (turn back).





Shining *ji-nie*.

Ôsaka yakidashi
(hamon gently widens to start)



togari (spike)

The health and vibrancy of this *Kanewaka* school katana can be felt from all angles. A well-deserved upgrade from NBT HK Hozon to Tokubetsu Hozon.



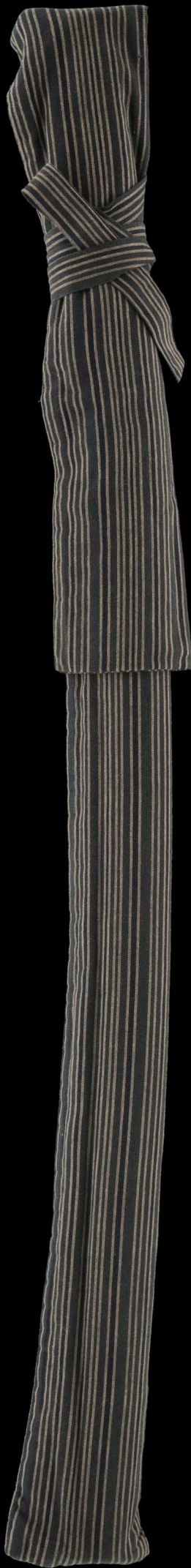
A bright, pulsating *gunome-midare hamon* with peaks and valleys that resembles a glorious mountain range.





The *hamon* displays a unique pattern called *kanitsume* or "crab claws" in the upper cutting zone of the blade.

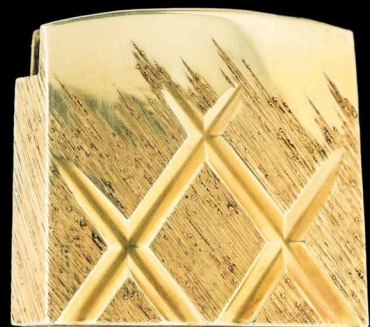
Crabs are symbolic of ninja warriors for they both move sideways, silently approaching their target.



Tanobe-sensei sayagaki potential



Shirasaya
(protective scabbard)



gold *habaki* with
Kaga-yasuri design

銃砲刀剣類登録証

登録記号番号 石川 第一五、二五〇号

銘文 (表) 賀茂住兼若 (裏) 切手 松林時石衛門	穴目くぎ	反そり	長さ	種別	刀 劍 類
	一個	一・三 センチメートル	六〇・七 センチメートル	刀	
石川縣教育委員 大鵬筆落土壇	口径	銃身長	全長	種別	銃 砲
				・ センチメートル ・ センチメートル	

昭和四十四年九月二〇日交付
石川縣教育委員

This is the original *torokusho* (registration card) for the *Kanewaka katana*. The card was registered in the 44th year of Showa (1969). It was issued by *Ishikawa* prefecture, the modern/new name for *Kaga* province once the Edo period came to an end in 1868.

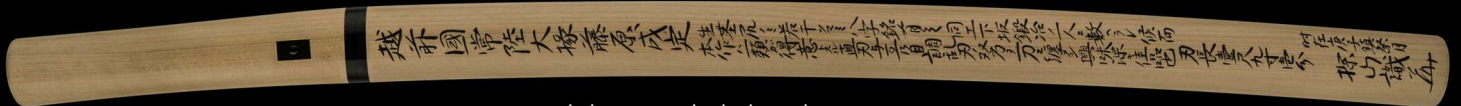
This suggests that this blade, which was crafted in Kaga, was looked after by several generations of samurai families in the area for some 300 years.

Submit, Repair, Sell & Create!

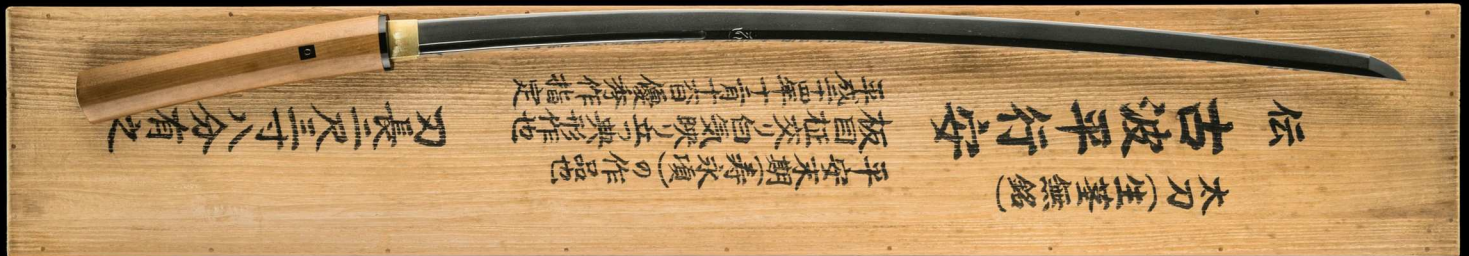
Unique Japan offers a *full-service menu* to assist clients with their Japanese swords and fittings. All services are performed in Japan with top quality craftsmen and women.

Services include (non exhaustive):

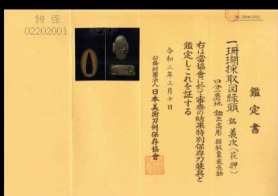
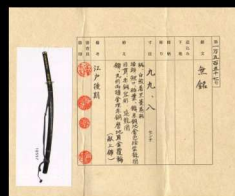
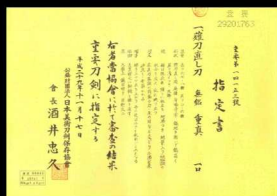
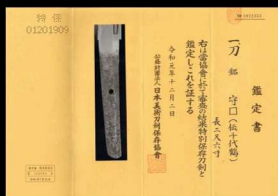
- * NBTHK and NTHK-NPO *shinsa* certification (swords and fittings)
- * polishing for all types of Japanese swords (standard to Jûyô-level quality polish)
- * *shirasaya* making (standard to high quality with horn fittings)
- * *habaki* making (gold, silver, copper in most any design pattern)
- * fix wobbly koshirae, repair cracked scabbards, new lacquer work, etc.
- * *otoshi* presentation boxes for your beautiful *tsuba*, *menuki*, *fuch-kashira*, etc.
- * *tsuka-maki* (re-wrap your hilts in silk or leather in most any colour, weave or braid)
- * *oshigata* (sword/hamon tracing on a scroll with a large choice of background)
- * *sayagaki* services with *Tanobe-sensei* and *shodô* artist Nozomi-san
- * *sword boxes with hakogaki* (with humidifying options for dry climates)
- * custom koshirae projects (see separate page)
- * sell your sword(s) on consignment (qualifying conditions apply)



polish, sayagaki, hakogaki



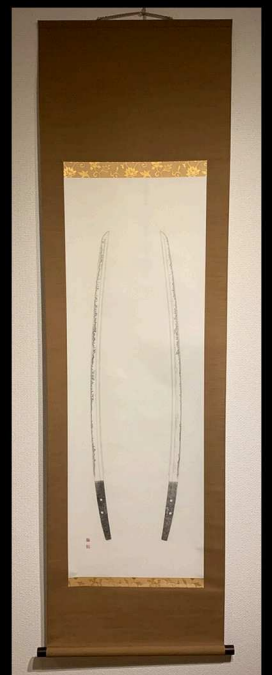
tsuka-maki



habaki creations



otoshi boxes



oshigata scrolls

All NBTHK and NTHK-NPO Shinsa authentication services